

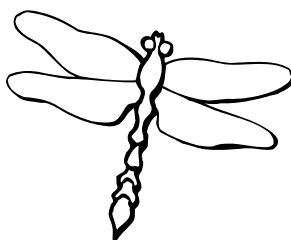
FAIRFAX WATERSHED WATCH

The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program
Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 905 Fairfax VA 22035 (703) 324-1460
Highlights 2002-2003

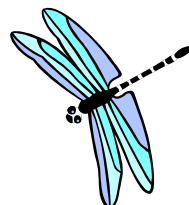
THANKS TO OUR CERTIFIED MONITORS

If your name should appear on this list or if your name is spelled incorrectly, please contact Joanna.

Aaron Bergman
Allison Austin
Amy Paterson
Andrew Lipsey
Anita Pease
Ann S. Brazinski
Beth Stein
Blythe Merritt
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Bob Slusser
Brian Petty
Burt Weisman
Casey Arnold
Cathy Saunders
Charles Smith
Charlotte Seid
Chris Baviello
Chris Do
Chris Lajewski
Chris Ruck
Christine Okano
Cynthia O'Connel
Dale McGrath
Dan Ziegler
Darin Grulkowski
David Lansbury
Deana Crumbling
Deana M. Demichelis
Deborah Chapman
Debra (Debbie) Falatko
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Diana Saccone
Ed Grace
Edwin R. (Ted) Moline
Ellie Coddling
Emily Teate
Gaby Ellenberger
Hae-Ri Kang
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Ivy Main
Jeanna Okano



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Jo Acosta*
Joanne Kao
Joe Chudzik
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Karen Stein-Monroe
Kathy Nash
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Laura Breeden*
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Marijke Gate
Marta Nammack
Martha Johnson
Martha Scholl
Mary Schaefer
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Mitch Martin
Nancy Shipman
Nancy Tray
Ned Poffenberger
Nina Kwartin
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Paul F. Gardner
Phil Kim
Purvagna Amin
Regina Decristofaro
Renee Kitt



Rob Radtke
Robert Andrews
Ronald Marafiotti
Sandra (Sandy) Murray
Sarah Hardy
Sean Conley
Sharon Henry
Stefanie Kline
Stephanie Sabbath
Steve Falatko
Stuart Carter
Sue Beffel
Susan Seid
Suzanne Dorrick
Zeb Strickland



*Certified for Impaired Stream

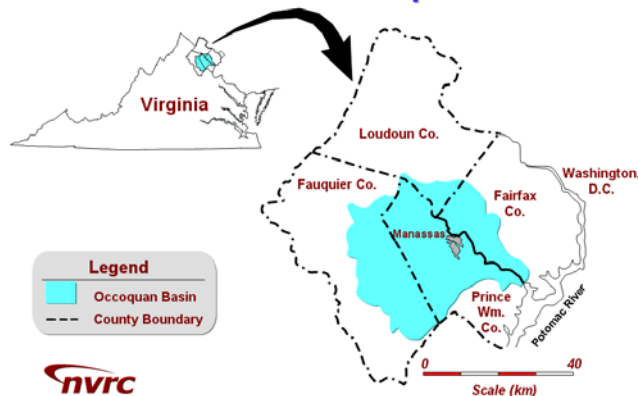
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GROWING CITIZEN WATERSHED GROUPS

2002 was the year of the Occoquan. The County and many organizations celebrated the down-zoning of a portion of the Occoquan Basin in Fairfax County. The healthiest streams can be found in this region, along the western edge of Fairfax County. The Basin includes four counties and several cities, with widely different management policies.

Location of the Occoquan Basin



Interest in watershed protection is steadily growing. A variety of watershed groups, driven primarily by the interests and passions of citizens, continue making their mark on local watersheds. Below is a thumbnail sketch of several of the groups. For more information about any of them, to join or to begin your own, or if you are aware of other groups that should be include, please contact Joanna at jarcis@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Federation of Lorton Communities

The Federation of Lorton Communities (FOLC) plays a key role in organizing, motivating, and involving citizens in watershed stewardship projects. Joe Chudzik leads the team in planting trees, cleaning up streams, monitoring, reporting sewage leaks, and educating the community. The focus is on the Williamsburg Square Community, with 185 town homes, located alongside Pohick

Creek in Lorton. The residents enjoy the strip of wooded area alongside the stream, but some residents have long expressed concerns about the environmental health of the stream valley and the water of Pohick Creek.

With the help of local activists and the support of community volunteers, a stream cleanup was conducted on February 23, 2002. Over thirty bags of trash and thirty-five scrap tires were collected and removed from a half-mile section of Pohick Creek.



After years of relentless effort on the part of Joe Chudzik and Mickie Sullivan, FOLC adopted this section of Pohick Creek in March 2002 under the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) *Adopt-A-Stream* Program. Mt. Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland presented the Adopt-A-Stream signage to FOLC President John Fedorshik in a public ceremony held at Pohick Creek on November 19, 2002.

Ten volunteers completed storm drain stenciling on June 22, 2002. All twenty-eight storm drains in Williamsburg Square were labeled, "Don't Dump. Drains to Stream." Andi Ceisler, Public Information Officer at the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD), helped to initiate and supported this project. Additionally, members of the FOLC put together a storm drain map, locating all the storm drains in the watershed and to where they drain. It is encouraging to see how much progress has been made in just one year.

Friends of Little Rocky Run



Stream monitoring was initiated in 2002. The monitoring site is near the Richmond Highway Bridge. It has been monitored five times, once catching a large sewage leak and preventing a potential disaster. About 20 local residents have come out to assist and learn.



The Friends of Little Rocky Run (FLRR) are leading clean-up, stream monitoring, education and exploration efforts in their watershed, in southwest Fairfax

County. They keep an eye out for potential threats to Little Rocky Run (LRR) from development and other activities on the land. When appropriate, problems are reported to the proper authorities. Their incredible and informative website showcases their consistent commitment and highlights the grist of their work. There is a virtual tour that enables web-users to walk along the watershed. Each photo captures aspects of the preceding photo, resulting in a consistent tour and an excellent overview of this natural waterway habitat. The disrespect with which the stream has been treated in the past is hard to ignore and is illustrated with pictures of old rusty pipelines, discarded shopping carts and tires. Past and future events are listed and documented, along with many informational links.



The FLRR are working hard to remove trash like shopping carts, tires, roof shingles, pipes, and other solid industrial waste from LRR and its tributaries. An impressive trash log can be found at:

<http://www.friendsoflittlerockyrun.com/TrashLogPage1.html>.

A tree-planting project, in which 70 tree seedlings were planted along the bank of Pohick Creek, was completed on November 9, 2002. The purpose of the tree planting was to stabilize the banks and help reduce soil erosion. The native species of hardwood tree seedlings and shrubs were purchased by FOLC from the NVSWCD.



When offensive graffiti was discovered on the Highway Bridge at Pohick Creek, community volunteers worked with Fairfax County officials to have the graffiti obliterated.



If you would like to get involved with protecting Pohick Creek or would like more information, contact Joe Chudzik at yuccaa@starpower.net.

All FOLC photos taken by Joe Chudzik.



The FLRR participate in Centreville Day. In 2002, they had a booth with watershed information, a watershed model, and live stream bugs which delighted children. Many children visited the booth numerous times. In 2003, they had a successful booth and walked proudly in the parade. The focus was on healthy and environmental lawn care, a topic dear to most homeowner's hearts.

The FLRR have been educating people on how to act responsibly by picking up trash and why it is important to clean up after dogs, even in the woods, so the pet waste does not end up in the stream.

The FLRR plan on gathering native seeds and planting them along stream banks and around ponds to act as a buffer. To discourage people from dumping trash into storm drains, which eventually ends up in the stream, they painted "DO NOT DUMP" directly on the storm drains. If you would like to help The Friends of Rocky Run with any of their watershed projects you can contact Ned Foster at nfoster@ixnetcom.com or visit their website full of pictures, history of the area, and current land uses at www.friendsoflittlerockyrun.com/.

The beauty of LRR watershed:



Some harsh realities in LRR watershed:



All FLRR photos were taken by Ned Foster.

Friends of the Occoquan

The Friends of the Occoquan (FO) are "dedicated to preserving and maintaining the beauty and natural integrity of the Occoquan by promoting community awareness through public and private partnerships." Through working with local scouts and community volunteers, they share their knowledge and heighten awareness of this valuable body of water. FO are active in collecting trash from Bull Run, Occoquan River, and Occoquan Reservoir.

On October 5, 2002, the Friends of the Occoquan organized and took part in Fall Clean Up Day for the Occoquan River and the Town of Occoquan. One hundred forty-five volunteers signed up, and by the end of the day, 220 trash bags, tires and several miscellaneous objects were collected.

For more information regarding Friends of the Occoquan, please visit their website at www.friendsoftheoccoquan.org/

Friends of Cub Run Watershed

This organization is still in its infancy, with a mission to promote watershed awareness in the community and raise awareness about the effects of land use activities on the Occoquan Reservoir. The Friends of Cub Run (FCR) wish to provide and



promote environmental stewardship opportunities to residents throughout the Cub Run watershed. They hope to be an active voice in Fairfax County for current and future environmental initiatives. Activities have included several clean-ups along the Rocky Run Stream Valley Park, active stream monitoring sites, and a watershed walk in 2003. To participate in the International Coastal Clean-up in October, 2003 or for more information, contact Joanna at jarcis@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Difficult Run Community Conservancy

Watershed work in the Difficult Run Watershed dates back to the early 1990's. Under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Judy Okay, 9,185 trees have been planted on more than 30 acres. The chosen area had sparse tree cover due to mowing, beaver activity, and general disturbance from frequent flooding. Many volunteers contributed over the years, working with the Virginia Department of Forestry, Fairfax ReLeaf, and NVSWCD.

Volunteer stewardship continues with the Difficult Run Community Conservancy (DRCC). Located in northern Fairfax County, the DRCC is focused on promoting public recognition of the watershed as a living system and encourage stewardship and community-building within the watershed.

Much of their work has been focused on restoring riparian buffer zones along stream banks, stream clean-ups, tree planting within the watershed, stream monitoring and educating homeowners about conservation and the effects of urbanization on the watershed. The DRCC has held workshops about the large-scale effects, as well as the local effects, of added nutrients and sediment on the stream and stream ecosystems. Other workshops included information on what you can do as a citizen to improve your local watershed.

Contact Dale McGrath for more information at joemcg@bellatlantic.net.

WATERSHED WALKS



Many watershed walks were held around the County, led by staff from NVSWCD, the Audubon Naturalist Society, and Fairfax County's SPS Team. These walks are an excellent way to explore locally, to learn about issues facing streams and to refresh plant and bird identification skills.

VOLUNTEERS RELAX WHILE SAILING ON THE POTOMAC RIVER



In 2002, several groups of volunteers spent an afternoon with the Alexandria Seaport Foundation and sailed along the Potomac. The day enabled volunteers to spend some relaxing time together, get to know one another, trawl for fish, and do some water

chemistry on a river. The volunteers learned about the differences between smaller local streams and the Potomac, and the impacts of local streams upon the Potomac. Several of our monitors, including Ted Moline and Casey Arnold, have volunteered their time to help the Seaport Foundation with their benthic macroinvertebrate programs for kids.



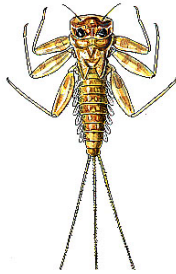
NATIONAL H₂O MONITORING DAY

On October 18, 2002, we celebrated Water Monitoring Day with a series of watershed walks, canoeing/kayaking on Bull Run, and a grill out.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND COMMITMENT TO FAIRFAX STREAMS
2002 Stream Monitors Included:

If your name was left off or is spelled incorrectly, please contact Joanna.

Aaron Bergman
Adarta Coulter
Alex Peloquin
Alex Rodriguez
Alex Zanin
Allison Austin
Ally Serio
Amy Paterson
Andrea Fornaro
Angela Ganey
Anita Pease
Ann M. Gerstenberger
Anna Roherty
Anne Brodeur
Arin Larch
Ashley
Barbara Dean
Barbara Dunn
Barbara Townsend
Barney Honeychuck
Barney O'Connel
Beth Stein
Betty Hoblitzell
Blythe Merritt
Bob Jordan
Bob Rogers
Bob Slusser
Brian Falatko
Brian Petty
Bruce Glendening
Carrie
Casey Arnold
Cathy Hershfield
Cecile Glendening
Charles Ryan
Charles Smith
Charlotte Seid
Chris Baviello
Chris Do
Chris Packert



Chris Ruck
Christina Rooney
Christine Okano
Clare Angeli
Colleen Warren
Collen Dayton
Coreen Harney
Courtney Good
Cub Scouts
Cynthia O'Connel
Dale McGrath
Dan Veltri
Darelyn Handley
Dave Greenacre
Dave Larch
David Witheford
Deana Crumbling
Deana M. Demichelis
Deborah Chapman
Debra (Debbie) Falatko
Diana Saccone
Don Phillip
Doris Garret
Doug Errett
Dwayne Yavorski
Ed Grace
Edwin R. (Ted) Moline
Eleanor (Ellie) Coddington
Elizabeth Cranmer
Emily Martin
Erica Schmidt
Erika McGrath
Erin Ovalle
Feliks Pleszczynski
Fran Grace
Frank Tseng
Fredricka Young
Fritz Janey
George Krump
GMU NCC Students (110+)



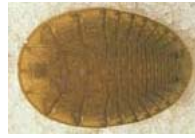
Greg Allen
Greg Bingham
Gwan Zanin
Haeri Kang
Hanna Kang
Harry W. Gedney
Heather M. Davidson
Helen C. Hollingsworth
Ivy Main
Janet Feutz
Janet Saccone
Jay Holmes
Jeannie Cody
Jeannie Okano
Jeff Cornell
Jenny Bohatch
Jessica Thurgood
Jill Lucy
Jim Allen
Jim Hardcastle
Jim Laurie
Jim McGlone
Jo Acosta
Joanie Engel
Joanne Kao
Jody Thompson
Joe Chudzick
Joe Frye
Joe McGrath
Joella Adams
John Callow
John Connors
John Evans
John Peconom
Josh Henry
Jud Harvey
Judy Buchino
Julie Fry
Kailash Gupta
Karen Besser



Karen Sheffield
 Karen Stein Monroe
 Karen Waltman
 Kate Ruck
 Katherine Connors
 Katherine Mariska
 Kathy Cleal
 Kathy Joseph
 Kathy Nash
 Katie Bultenier
 Katie Keller
 Katie Paul
 Katva Keller
 Kelly Gregory
 Kelse Martin
 Ken Andrews
 Kenneth Young
 Kenny Rogers
 Kevin Roger
 Kim Angeli
 Kim Zuber
 Kirsten Hansen
 Kurt Majilton
 L.D. (Larry) Larson
 Laura Breeden
 Laura Grape
 Laura Warren
 Leslie Smith
 Linda Anderson
 Lindsay Mayer
 Lisa Bright
 Lisa Moore
 Lisa Shine
 Liz Rowan
 Llewelyn Engel
 Louis Beha
 Love Oberly
 Lynn (Rafferty) Johnson
 Mai-Lan Aram
 Mandy Louie
 Mandy Martin
 Manish Bhartiya
 Marcela Kwon
 Maria Phillip
 Marieke Beltman
 Martha Johnson
 Martha Scholl
 Mary Ann Spech



Mary Schaefer
 Massiha Habibi
 Matt Serio
 Matthew Bright
 Meg McCrary
 Meghan Deaver
 Michel Coulter
 Mickie Sullivan
 Mike Meyers
 Milena Arciszewski
 Mindy Ping
 Mitch Martin
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 Molly Smith
 Nancy Roeper Dale
 Nancy Scott
 Nancy Shipman
 Nancy Sullivan
 Nancy Tray
 Niki Hildebrand
 Nina Kwartin
 Nora Jordan
 Nora Laing
 Orron Key
 Patricia Connors
 Patricia Tseng
 Paul B. Phelps
 Paul F. Gardner
 Paula Porsche
 Peggy Langrall
 Penny Yrannarakis
 Pete Schirmer
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 Purvagna Amin
 Raymond John
 Regina Decristofaro
 Regina Lanctot
 Renee Kitt
 Renee Martin-Nagle
 Rob Radtke
 Robert (Bob) Bidwell
 Roger Loudin
 Ronald Marafioti
 Ryan Spech
 Sandra (Sandy) Murray
 Sanjay Rajpa
 Sarah Hardy



Sean Kluckman
 Sharon Henry
 Sharon Ryan
 Shivani
 Sidney Weng
 Sierra Coulter
 Signy Whitt
 Staci Frye
 Stefanie Kline
 Stephanie Dawkins
 Stephanie Gera
 Stephanie Sabbath
 Steve Falatko
 Steve Hoblitzell
 Steven Ton
 Stuart Carter
 Sue Beffel
 Susan Maher
 Susan Seid
 Sylvia Tan
 Tera Chapman
 Teresa Rodriguez
 Tiffany Jones
 Tim Douglas
 Tony Bulmer
 Travis Good
 Trevor Perrier
 Vicky Trinh
 Vielka Garibaldi
 Vivien Witheford
 Wade Angeli
 Walter Brodtman
 Zeb Strickland
 Zoe Vangelder

Special thanks to Eva Arciszewski for
 her technical support of our webpage
 and database!

Note: Many monitors volunteered
 their time at several sites. Most
 monitors volunteered during
 several seasons.
 Thank-you for all your dedication.

THANKS TO OUR GARDEN CLUB STREAM MONITORS!

Louis Beha and Frederica Young led their Garden Club members on a two-year monitoring adventure. They chose to monitor a small tributary of Sandy Run. It turned out to be a healthy and vibrant stream community and each season a team of Garden Club ladies and other volunteers joined the monitoring session. Louis and Freddie created displays about monitoring and streams for their large garden club meetings and educated many people about the value of stream protection.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

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Lindsay Majer, Volunteer
Mary Young, Volunteer
Stefanie Kline, Intern

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NOTE: If you would like a paper version of this newsletter sent to your home, office or school, please send an email to jarcis@fairfaxcounty.gov

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